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Transmitted via email

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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-5-9

SUBJECT: TSP – PRELIMINARY GUIDANCE FOR DETERMINING TECHNICAL SERVICE PROVIDER (TSP) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA) RATES

Purpose. To distribute preliminary guidance on use of new and previous TSP and TA rates.

Expiration Date. December 30, 2005.

New TSP TA “Not-to-Exceed” (NTE) rates were posted on the “TechReg” website on October 1, 2004. <http://www.tsp-nte.nrcs.usda.gov/>. To generate a rate, click Minnesota on the map and follow the instructions provided. These new rates will only be used in FY05 contribution agreements (new agreements developed after October 1, 2004). All new rates except for CNMPs, nutrient management and pest management will also be used in FY05 EQIP producer contracts. Rates for practices not listed in the data base can be requested from Jeff St. Ores at (651) 602-7869. Additional information on the new rates for CNMPs, nutrient management and pest management will be distributed at a later date.

Existing contribution agreements and all future modifications to these existing agreements will continue to use the old rates or where appropriate, those rates listed in the signed agreement. These old rates also apply to FY2003 and FY2004 EQIP contracts where TSP technical assistance funds have been obligated and any future modifications to those contracts. The old rates are located on the “TechReg” web site: <http://www.tsp-nte.nrcs.usda.gov/>. To generate a rate, scroll below the map to Notice #2, click on the link and follow the instructions.

Additional detailed guidance on the use of not to exceed rates will be released in early December 2004. Please provide a copy of this information to your SWCD.

Questions on the information in this bulletin can be directed to Jeff St. Ores, Water Quality Specialist or Paul Flynn, State Resource Conservationist.

/s/ Ann English acting for

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State Conservationist

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